

A
Private Conference

BETWEEN

Two *Hanoverian* MINISTERS

AT

HANOVER.

Taken down in Short Hand by an *English* Gentleman, who understands *High Dutch*, and happened accidentally to over-hear them, on the 13th of *October* last.

AND

Translated into *English*, and published for the Benefit of his Country, by the same Gentleman,



L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, in *Pater-noster Row*,
MDCCXLIV.

(Price One Shilling.)

Private Conference

between

the President and the

AT

MANHATTAN

Between the President and the
Governor of the State of New York
and the Governor of the State of New Jersey
on the 1st of October 1891.

AND

Between the President and the
Governor of the State of New York
on the 1st of October 1891.



The Editor to the READER.

THE following Sheets were sent to me by the Penny-Post, together with a Letter inclosed as follows:

S I R,

THE inclosed is genuine, and ought to be published, because it will shew us the national Vices we are accused of by Foreigners; and every one who has travelled abroad, and conversed freely with Foreigners, which few of our travelling Gentlemen do, must know, that it is not at Hanover alone, where such Accusations are brought against us.—Though I am convinced, they are all most scandalously false, yet it is highly probable, that we have laid a Foundation for them by some Errors in our past Conduct, and these, I hope, will be prevented for the future by the Publication of what follows.

I have sent it to you, because, I hear, you have the true Interest of your Country unfeignedly at Heart; and that I may depend upon your Honour, that, if you resolve to publish it, you will first have it transcribed, and then commit the Copy to the Flames, as well as this Epistle.—Though unacquainted, I hope to have soon an Opportunity of shewing you how much I am

Your hearty Friend,

and humble Servant,

THOMAS TRUEMAN.

By

By now seeing it in Print, Mr. *Trueman* will find, that I join with him in Opinion as to the Expediency of it's being published ; and as I have no other Opportunity, I shall hereby assure him, that before sending it to the Press, I punctually complied with what he recommends in his Letter.

N. B. I delayed publishing this Conference for several Days, on Account of the *French* Invasion we were alarmed with ; but now the Danger is over, I hope my Countrymen will take Care to prevent their being governed by *German* Influence, as well as to enquire how we came to be so much exposed to the Danger of being governed by *French* Influence ; for from this Danger we have, in my Opinion, been protected by Providence alone ; because if the *Brest* Squadron had happened to meet with a fair *Westerly* Wind when they first sailed, instead of a strong *North-East* Wind, they might have taken 20000 Men on Board their Ships and the Transports lying at *Dunkirk*, and might have landed near *London*, before Sir *John Norris's* Squadron was ready to oppose their Passage, or any one Regiment ordered towards *London* to oppose their Landing.

A

Private Conference, &c.

THE following *Conference* being of such an important as well as secret Nature, every one must suppose, the two Ministers would take all possible Care not to be over-heard, especially by any *British* Subject, and therefore I think it necessary to give the Reader some Account how it comes now to be published; but must first beg Pardon for talking so much of myself, which I would of all Things have avoided, had I not found it absolutely necessary, in order to inform the Publick, how I came to over-hear this *Conference*.

My Father having always been a most zealous *Whig*, and remarkably so *in the worst of Times*, he of course became a great Favourite at Court, in the Beginning of the late Reign, and had several very lucrative

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Employments conferred upon him ; by which Means, together with a little private Stockjobbing, when his being in the Secret of Affairs gave him a manifest Advantage, he made considerable Additions to his paternal Estate.—But though he was pretty successful in making his Court to the *British* Ministers, he often found himself at a Loss for want of the *German* Language, and an Intimacy with the *Hanoverian* Favourites. Therefore, he resolved, that I, who was his only Son, should not labour under the same Disadvantage, if it should ever be my Fate to become a Favourite at Court.

In my Infancy he took Care, that I should be Master of the *French* Language, almost as soon as I was Master of the *English*; and after learning a little of the *Higb Dutch* at Home, he sent me, in the Year 1734, when I was but fifteen Years of Age, to the University of *Paderborne*, with a Tutor, and two Servants, neither of whom could speak a Word of any Living Language but *Higb Dutch*.—At

this University I continued four Years, and by my Father's particular Recommendation in most of his Letters, I made myself Master of that Language, and intimate with several young Noblemen of the Electorate of *Hanover*; many of whom have in this University a Part of their Education.

Soon after the Beginning of the Year 1739, I was called Home, in order, as my Father said, that he might get me provided for at Court; but he died before he could effectuate his Purpose; and as he left me in Possession of a plentiful Estate, I resolved to make the Tour of *Europe* before I determined on settling in any Way at Home; depending upon my Education, and my Acquaintance with some of the chief Quality of the Electorate, that I should have it in my Power to render myself a Favourite at Court, whenever I pleased.

With these Views I set out for *France*, as soon as I had settled my Affairs after my Father's Death; and after not only visiting, but making myself thoroughly acquainted

quainted with the Court of *France*, and most of the Courts in *Italy* and *Germany*, I arrived at *Hanover* in *March* last, where I resolved to make some Stay, in order to renew my former Acquaintance, and to make Friends of such as I thought might be of Service to me in *England*.

As I have the Happiness to have a genteel Person, a good masculine Aspect, and an agreeable bass Voice; and as I have naturally a good Share of what they call sprightly Wit, and by Means of a good Ear, and a little Industry, had made myself Master of all the favourite little Songs of each Country I passed through, I found an easy Access to the Ladies wherever I came: And my Education at the Court of *France*, had given such a Turn of Negligence, Freedom and Familiarity to my Behaviour and Conversation, that I became every where intimate almost as soon as acquainted.

These Qualifications made me be soon taken Notice of by some of the principal Ladies at the Court of *Hanover*, and with

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one of the most beautiful I commenced a *Platonick* Intrigue; for I soon found, she was one of those Ladies, who, like our curious Gardeners, delight in cultivating a Garden, without ever tasting the Fruits.— Though I am no Admirer of this Sort of Love, yet in Hopes the Lady might some Time or other alter her Mind, I carried on the Intrigue in her own Way; but our innocent Amours were interrupted by my making the Campaign in the Army of the Allies upon the *Rhine*.—In a few Days after I returned to *Hanover*, I received from her the following Billet.

My dear *Englishman* *.

Mr Simpleton † goes out to morrow Morning at seven to a secret Council of a few of our Ministers, who are to prepare Matters for the Great One at Night, and is to be abroad the whole Day. Let me therefore have

* In her Letters she always called me, *Mon cher Anglois*, which sounds better in *French* than in *English*.

† *Bonhomme* is a *French* Expression, which cannot be properly translated into *English*.

the Happiness of enjoying one entire Day (I wish I could say a Year, an Age, if a Mahometan, I should say, an Eternity) of your agreeable Conversation.—I shall assume the Malade for that Purpose.—Be at the little Back-door you know, exactly at Seven.—My trusty Damsel will let you in, and you know your Way to my Apartment, where you are sure of being received in Raptures by her who will always be

Wednesday,
Oct. 23, 1743.

Your constant, and
most passionate Lover.

DIANA*.

This Message the Reader may believe I joyfully received, and punctually obeyed, but to our great Surprise the trusty Damsel bolted into the Room a little after Eleven, and cried, Madam! Madam! *Mynbeer* the Baron is just stepping out of his Coach, and *Mon Seigneur le Compte de*—along with

* The Lady chose to subscribe her Letters by this Name.

him.

him.—As it was not proper, however innocent, that *Mynbeer* should find me alone with his Lady in her Bedchamber, and as it was impossible for me to get out of the Apartment, without running the Risk of meeting the Baron coming in, she lock'd me up in a large light Closet in her Dressing-Room, with Orders to lock myself up in a little dark one within it, in case she came to open the Door.

The Baron came in presently after, with his Friend along with him, and finding his Lady in Bed, begg'd Pardon for disturbing her, (which he had done, indeed, more than he was aware of) but hoped she would excuse him, because, as the Count and he were to have a serious Conference together, he must beg the Favour she would allow them to take their Chocolate in her Dressing-Room, on account of it's being the most private Room in the House.

This Request gave me some Anxiety, but being fired with a Curiosity of hearing their private *Conference*, it afforded me some Relief; and there being Pen, Ink, and
Paper

Paper in the Closet, I resolv'd to take it down in short Hand, which I am completely Master of.

By this Accident I came at an Account of the following *Conference*, which I shall give the Reader exactly Word for Word, as I took it down; and from what I have subjoined, the World will see, that I have been guilty of no Breach of Honour in making the Story publick; for though I was convinc'd, that the Publication would be of great Service to my Country, yet even that Consideration shall never prevail with me, to do any Thing inconsistent with my Honour, especially where the Character of any of the *Fair Sex* is concerned.

As soon as the Chocolate was brought in, and my two Gentlemen left by themselves, as they thought, the Baron began as follows.

Baron. My Lord, as there is no Man I have a greater Esteem for than I have for your Lordship, I was sorry you and I should differ in our Opinion this Morning, especially, as I was not at Liberty, before some-
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that were present, to open to you fully my Reasons; therefore I begged the Favour of your Lordship to take your Chocolate at my House, because here I can safely explain myself at full Length, which I know, I may do without Reserve to one of your Lordship's Honour, Prudence, and Secrecy.

Count. I thank you, Sir, for the Regard you shew me, and shall be glad to be convinced, because the Measures you proposed will certainly be of great Advantage both to ourselves and our native Country, if we can any Way guard against the Consequences they may be attended with, and the bad Effects they may produce in *England*.

Baron. Though you explained at large this Morning the Consequences and bad Effects you apprehend, yet I must beg your Lordship to repeat them here, that I may answer them the more categorically.

Count. Your Advice, I think, was, that we should direct our People in *England*, to continue to assist the Queen of *Hungary* with Troops as well as Money, and to pro-

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mise,

mise, that they will continue this Assistance, till she has obtained an Equivalent for that Part of *Silesia*, which she has ceded to *Prussia*; and that notwithstanding the Danger of it's involving *England* in an open War with *France*.——Is not this, Sir, one of the Opinions you delivered this Morning at the Council?

Baron. Yes, my Lord, it is; and now let me hear your Objections?

Count. My Objection is, that this Measure will, in my Opinion, be attended with bad Consequences to us, let the Event of the War be what it will.——Suppose the Queen of *Hungary* should have Success against *France*, it will raise her House to as high a Pinnacle of Power as ever, and defeat all we have been a doing for this twenty Year to pull it down, which, I think, would be of most fatal Consequence; for it is certainly our Interest, as well as it is that of every other Prince in *Germany*, to have the Power of that House rather lessened than any Way increased.

Baron.

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Baron. Granting your Supposition, my Lord, in it's full Extent, I shall agree with you in every Thing you say, but you do not reflect upon the absolute Power we have over the Ministers of *England*, especially their new Chief, who has already out-bid all that ever went before him, for our Favour, and has thereby rendered himself so obnoxious to his Country, that for his own Safety, he must from henceforth blindly follow our Directions.—If you reflect upon this you must see, that the Queen of *Hungary* can get nothing by her Success; for should she at the Beginning have a little Success, or so much as to bring *France* under a real Distress, we can call *England* off whenever we please; and as all the Princes of *Germany* have the same Interest we have, with regard to the Power of the House of *Austria*, they would all fly to the Relief of *France*, and oblige that haughty Queen to content herself, perhaps, with something less than *France* offered her above a Twelvemonth since.

Count. I must confess, Sir, when I consider what you mention with regard to *England*, we have no great Occasion to dread the Consequences of her *Hungarian* Majesty's Success; but what shall we get by the Continuance of the War?

Baron. I am surpris'd, my Lord, to hear you ask that Question:—Shall we not thereby bring great Sums of *English*, *Dutch*, *French*, and *Spanish* Money into our native Country, and particularly into this Electorate?—For, thank God! Our Riches here consist in *solid Metal*, and not in those airy Bubbles called *Bank Notes*, *Exchequer Bills*, or *Transfers of Stock*, all of which may at once be broke by an *unlucky Blast*, and perhaps when least expected, reduced to their *intrinsick Nothing*.

Count. These Advantages, I must admit, we shall reap by a Continuance of the War; and from thence, I find, I am drove to my other Supposition, which I think by much the most probable.—Suppose then the Success should be all upon the Side of *France* and

and her Allies, have we not something to fear from the Resentment of that Nation, or from that of the *Emperor*?

Baron. Nothing at all, my Lord.—
The *Emperor* knows, that had it not been for us, he would never have been *Emperor*, nor would *France* have dared to assist him.
——He likewise knows, that if the People of *England* had been allowed to exert in Time, and in the most proper Manner, their Strength in Favour of the Queen of *Hungary*, he would probably by this Time have been drove out of the *Empire*, and his Election declared void.—~~Even~~ Even this last Campaign, *France* might perhaps have been forced to desert both him and *Spain*, if you and I had not contrived to restrain the Ardor of our Troops at *Dettingen*, and (without letting our Master know any Thing of our Design) to send Prince *Charles* with his *Pandours* upon a wild Goose Chace up the *Rhine*, and also to assure the *French*, that if they took Care to guard the Banks of that River against his Highness, they had nothing to fear from
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us.—Therefore the *Emperor* can have no Resentment against us, but in Gratitude must be attached to our Interest.

Count. You are not surely such a weak Politician, as to lay any Stress upon the Gratitude of Princes.

Baron. I beg Pardon, my Lord, for mentioning the Word Gratitude, for in political Considerations I shall grant it is ridiculous; but on the other Hand, a wise Prince is as little led by Resentment as he can be by Gratitude, to do any Thing against his Interest; and in the present Circumstances of *Germany*, the *Emperor's* Interest will lead him to support and keep well with our House, as a Balance against the formidable Power of the Houses of *Austria* and *Prussia*, as well as against the Power and Ambition of *France*.

Count. You have, I see, Sir, a laudable Bias towards your native Country, which makes you imagine it of greater Consideration in the Affairs of *Europe*, than it really is.

Baron.

Baron. My Lord, it has been of late Years, it will always be of great Consideration, both in the Affairs of *Europe*, and in the Affairs of *Germany*, as long as our Elector is King of *England*, which, I hope, will be as long as the World endures.

Count. I hope so too, Sir; but how can this be, when it is expressly declared by their Act of Settlement, that *England* shall have no Concern in the Affairs of *Hanover*?

Baron. They might as well have declared by Act of Parliament, that none of their future Kings should be subject to any human Passion or Affection.—Whilst their King is in Possession of any foreign Dominion, natural Affection will lead him to consult chiefly it's Safety, because it must always be in the greatest Danger, and least able to take Care of itself; and his Ambition will lead him to enlarge it as much as possible.—By these Affections their Kings will always be governed; and as by their Constitution, the King has the sole Power
of

of negotiating, and of making Peace and War, we may foresee, that *England* must always necessarily have a Concern in what may any way affect us: Besides, whilst we have any Influence upon their Ministers, you know by Experience how easy it is to pass our Concerns upon that People for their own.

Count. In this, I must allow, Sir, we have been hitherto pretty successful; but, to return to my Argument, suppose the *Emperor* should have no Resentment against us, or if he had, suppose he should be so wise as to wave it for the Sake of his Interest, yet if *France* should meet with great Success in the War, must not he be governed by *French Councils*, even though contrary to his Interest as well as Inclinations; and may not we be made to suffer by *Imperial* Power directed by *French* Resentment?

Baron. My Lord, as your Objection consists of two Parts, I shall answer them distinctly; and first as to the *Emperor's* being governed by *French Councils*, we have, 'tis true,

true, made good Use of this Doctrine in *England*, but both you and I know it to be without any Foundation.—As long as the *French* co-operate with the *Emperor* for the Aggrandisement of his House, he will act in Concert with them; but if they should pretend to dictate, or to assume the Direction of any Affair relating to the *Empire*, he would presently make up Matters with the Queen of *Hungary*, which, you know, he may now, or at any Time, do, upon his agreeing to join with her against *France*; and for his doing so, he would have a good Excuse, if the *French*, from pretending to act only as Allies, should presume to act as Masters.—Such an Attempt the *Empire* itself would resent with the utmost Indignation; and as all it's Princes would act with more Vigour and Sincerity under the present *Emperor*, and for his sole Benefit, than they have done under the *Emperors* of the House of *Austria*, ever since the Power of that House began to be formidable to them, it would soon appear, that the *Em-*

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pire,

pire, when heartily united, is by itself alone an Over-Balance for the Power of *France*, notwithstanding all her late Acquisitions.

Count. This, I shall grant, Sir, might be the Consequence of the *French* Court's presuming from their Success to dictate to the *Emperor*; but as the Hearts of Princes are in the Hand of God alone, no one can with any Certainty foretel, what the *Emperor* might in such a Case resolve on.

Baron. Then, my Lord, in order to satisfy you fully upon this Head, I must come to the other Part of your Objection, by supposing, that if the *French* meet with great Success in the War, the *Emperor* must, or at least will, suffer himself to be directed by their Councils, and that they will very much resent our Conduct with respect to the Continuance of the War, which, by the Way, they have as yet no great Cause for.—However, I shall suppose it, in order to shew, that even in this Case, our *Electorate* has nothing to fear from *Imperial* Power directed by *French* Resentment.

Count.

Count. No, Sir? If you make that good, I shall acknowledge myself fully satisfied.

Baron. I ask no more, my Lord; for I am sure, you will admit the *French* Court to be so wise as to take Care, always to direct their Resentment to that Point from whence they may expect the greatest Advantage.

Count. I will, Sir.

Baron. Then you must of course admit, that they will not, in the present Situation of Affairs, point their Resentment against this Electorate, for from thence they can expect no Advantage.—If any of our Dominions should be taken from us, *France* cannot so much as desire to have a Share:—It would be a Disadvantage to that Kingdom to have any Dominion at such a Distance, especially as it might raise a Jealousy in the *Northern Powers* against her; and what Advantage can she expect from the whole, or any Part of this Electorate's being given to any other Prince in *Germany*, or to any of the *Northern Powers*?

Count. Pardon me, Sir, I cannot say, I am quite easy or satisfied upon this Head.—By promising a Part of our Dominions, she may get some of them who are now neutral, to join with her in the War against us and the Queen of *Hungary*.

Baron. Which of them, my Lord?

Count. What think you of *Prussia*?

Baron. As he is already very powerful, and has Dominions upon the Confines of *France*, she will be loth to contribute any Way to an Increase of his Power.

Count. Are we secure upon the Side of *Denmark*?

Baron. His *Danish* Majesty's Thoughts are all taken up about securing *Sleswick*, and acquiring *Holstein*; for which Purpose he will have Occasion for the Navy of *England*.—We are therefore secure upon that Side; and farther, I hope, we shall be able to make some Advantage of his present Circumstances:—He has a little Thing which lies very convenient for us:—I mean *Oldenburg* and *Delmenhorst*: If we can get him
Holstein,

Holstein, we may justly insist upon his selling that little Territory to us:—The Navy of *England* will enable us to do the former, and it's Treasure to pay for the latter.

Count. But what say you of *Sweden*, which would now be supported by *Russia*?

Baron. By Means of the Navy of *England* we may defy them both.

Count. I doubt of that, Sir; because the whole Navy of *England* must be employed in protecting their Trade, their Plantations, their Possessions in the *Mediterranean*, and their own Coasts.

Baron. My Lord, are not we more concerned about protecting ourselves, than about protecting the Trade, the Plantations, or the Possessions of *England*?—And have we not always found the Navy of *England* at our Disposal?

Count. I must confess, Sir, your Reasoning upon this Head has great Weight; but where then do you suppose that *France* will point her Resentment?

Baron.

Baron. Where, but against *England*.—
England, my Lord, has several Possessions,
 several Rights, several Advantages in Trade,
 and otherwise, which would be extremely
 convenient for *France*, or for her Ally the
Spaniard, who can give her an Equivalent ;
 therefore we must suppose, that *France* will
 point her Resentment against that Nation ;
 and as she cannot easily take from the *Eng-*
lish any of their Possessions by Force, because
 it must be by a naval Force, we may at any
 Time pacify the Resentment either of *France*
 or *Spain* against us, as we have done hereto-
 fore, by sacrificing, or promising to sacrifice,
 some of those Possessions to that Resent-
 ment.

Count. But how shall we get the Ministers
 of *England* to consent to this Method of
 freeing the Electorate from the Danger of
 suffering by the Resentment of *France* ?

Baron. That, my Lord, is the least of
 my Difficulties ; for as long as we take Care
 to have a Set of Ministers in *England* that
 are hated and despised by the People, they
 must,

must, for their own Safety, or at least for their Continuance in Power, concur with us in every Measure we think necessary for the Honour or Interest of the Electorate, however destructive or expensive it may be to their own Country.

Count. There, you are right, Sir, and by what you have now said, you make me recollect the Advice given to our Ministers, by that great Countryman of ours, the Baron —, afterwards Count —, who by his long Abode in *England*, had become well acquainted with the Nature and Genius of that People.

Baron. That Advice, my Lord, I have heard of, but must beg the Favour, you would refresh my Memory with a short Account of it.

Count, Sir, as I think myself bound, not to refuse you any Favour I can grant, I shall readily comply with your Request.

Baron. I thank your Lordship, and beg you'll proceed.

Count.

Count. Upon the Accession of our late Elector to the Throne of *England*, there was a Dispute in a private Meeting of our Ministers, how they should advise their Master to behave, upon his mounting the Throne of that powerful but divided Kingdom.—The general Opinion at first was,—To endeavour to heal their Divisions by beginning his Reign with a general Indemnity, as most of his Ancestors had done; and by forgetting what had passed in the last four Years of the late Queen, to shew equal Favour to Men of all Parties, that were willing to submit to his Government, and qualified to serve in the Administration.—Upon this the Great Man I have mentioned rose up, and spoke to the following Effect:

My Lords,

‘ As you are all *Germans*, I must presume
 ‘ you are all indued with that noble and
 ‘ generous Passion, which is the distinguish-
 ‘ ing Characteristick of our Countrymen, a

' *sincere and hearty Love for your native Coun-*
 ' *try*; and therefore, without considering
 ' what may be for the Advantage of *Eng-*
 ' *land*, I hope, you will consider chiefly,
 ' what may contribute most to the Advan-
 ' tage of this Electorate.—Would you
 ' have your native Country serve as a Sort of
 ' Province to *England*, or would you have
 ' *England* made a Sort of Province to this
 ' Electorate?—I know, that nothing can
 ' make you hesitate a Moment in your
 ' Choice, but a Supposition, that the latter
 ' is impossible.—I tell you, it is not.—If
 ' his Majesty should grant a general Indem-
 ' nity, and establish what I may call a nati-
 ' onal Administration, they will make this
 ' Electorate a Province of *England*:—They
 ' will govern us:—They will allow us to
 ' undertake nothing but what may be agree-
 ' able to their Interests and Views:—They
 ' will even sacrifice the Interests of this E-
 ' lectorate to those of their native Coun-
 ' try.—Whereas, if his Majesty grants
 ' no Indemnity, but establishes his Govern-

‘ ment upon a narrow Foundation, and em-
 ‘ ploys a Set of Ministers who are disagree-
 ‘ able to the People, they must support
 ‘ themselves by our Favour, and the con-
 ‘ trary in every Respect will be the Case.

‘ Some of you may perhaps think it im-
 ‘ possible to establish and continue such a
 ‘ Government in a free Country; but you
 ‘ do not know their Form of Government,
 ‘ nor the Nature of the People.—I do.—
 ‘ They boast of their Liberties, and of their
 ‘ Government’s being a limited Monarchy;
 ‘ but the *Giving*, and consequently the *Com-*
 ‘ *manding Power* of the Crown, has of late
 ‘ grown so extensive, Luxury has so much
 ‘ prevailed among that People, and publick
 ‘ Spirit has so much decayed, that their
 ‘ King has now no Occasion to act against
 ‘ Law, because he may have what Laws he
 ‘ pleases; and consequently it is not only
 ‘ possible, but very practicable, to establish
 ‘ and continue such a Government as I have
 ‘ proposed.

‘ It

' It may be difficult to bring his Majesty
 ' into this Scheme.—I know it is; but I
 ' have already done my Part as a *True Ger-*
 ' *man*.——I have represented to him, and,
 ' I hope, made him believe, that all the *To-*
 ' *ries* in *England*, which is by far the most
 ' numerous Part of the People, are all *Ja-*
 ' *cobites* in their Hearts, and will betray
 ' him, if he puts any Trust in them:—
 ' That many of the *Whigs* are *Republicans*,
 ' and consequently not to be trusted; and
 ' that it is the Part of a good and great
 ' King, to reward his Friends, and punish
 ' or despise his Enemies.——If I have suc-
 ' ceeded, we shall have it in our Power to
 ' exclude from any Share in the Admini-
 ' stration, all the *Tories* at one Dash; and
 ' likewise such of the *Whigs*, as dare to re-
 ' fuse being subservient to us; and if we can
 ' do this, we shall certainly gain the End I
 ' have explained to you, which is that of
 ' making *England* a Sort of Province to this
 ' Electorate.'

This, Sir, was the Substance of what he said; and upon this it was unanimously resolved, to advise his Majesty to grant no Indemnity, but to prosecute with the utmost Severity the Ministers of the preceding Reign. —How far this Advice has succeeded, you know; but I must still think it was a dangerous, as well as bold Advice.

Baron. As you know a great deal more of the History of those Times than I do, I must beg the Favour, your Lordship would inform me, how this Advice was palated by the Council of *England*?

Count. Why, Sir, we met with great Difficulty at first; for it was strenuously opposed by the great Duke of *Marlborough*, and that consummate Statesman the Earl of *Halifax*; but at last, by Means of what was in *England* then called the *Norfolk Faction*, who were *as hungry as ourselves*, we carried it; which, I believe, cost the latter his Life, and the former his Understanding; for they were both great Statesmen, and *True Englishmen*, two Qualities which in that Country
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are seldom found to be united in the same Person; and as they perceived what we were driving at, and foresaw the Consequences, they could not but be heartily vexed; but as they could not then do otherwise, they submitted to what was determined by a Majority.—Happy was it for us, that their Vexation had such an Effect as to carry the Earl to his Grave, and to render the Duke incapable of meddling in any Business; for if they had both lived and done well, we could not have carried on our Business in *England* with so much Facility.—We soon saw the good Effects of our great Minister's Advice; and ever since, we have taken Care, that no Man should come into the Administration in *England*, till he had done, or promised to do, something that, we foresaw, would render him contemptible and hateful to the People.

Baron. As you are so well acquainted with our past Transactions in *England*, I wonder to see your Lordship so shy of joining with me in Opinion about the Continuance of the War.

Count.

Count. I confess, I am in my Temper a little cautious; and my great Age may perhaps have now brought me into an Extreme. But though you have pretty fully answered my Objections upon that Head; yet still I do not think we should engage in such a dangerous Undertaking, for the Sake of getting a little of the *English* Money, when we may have enough of it without running any Risk.

Baron. From what you now say, my Lord, I find, that beside answering your Objections, I must shew you the Probability we have of making some Advantage by the Continuance of the War, and of getting something by it's Event, which, I think, will not be very difficult.

Count. To be sure, Sir, a wise Man will never run any Risk, without some Prospect of Advantage; and therefore I am willing to be informed of all the Advantages you propose.

Baron. I think, I have shewn, that the Electorate can, in no Event, run any great Risk;

Risk; and now, my Lord, with respect to the Advantages.—You know how we were treated, abused, and deceived by *France*, after the late *Emperor's* Death:—You know how solemnly they promised us, that they would not intermeddle in the Affairs of *Germany*, any other Way, than by their good Offices, in order to encourage us to form Projects against the King of *Prussia*:—You know how treacherously, how insolently they broke through that Engagement:—And you know how they threatned us, how contemptuously they used us, after they had gained the King of *Prussia*, and marched their Armies into *Germany*.—Had they even then made Use of their Interest with his *Prussian* Majesty, to have yielded to us his Right to *Mecklemburg*, or to have engaged to yield us but a Part of that Dutchy, as soon as he should come to the Possession of it, by Virtue of his *Contract of Confraternity**,

* *A Contract of Confraternity* is a mutual Intail, frequently made between two Sovereign Princes of *Germany*; whereby, upon the Failure of Heirs male of either House, the Heirs male of the other are to succeed to both.

we should have contracted an *offensive Alliance*, instead of a *Neutrality* with them; we should have joined with them in the War against the Queen of *Hungary*, as well as we did in the Election of an *Emperor*; and if we could not have made the *English* follow our Example, we should at least have kept them quiet; but instead of endeavouring to gain us, they defied and threatned us; so that we were forced to beg, in the most humble Manner, for a *Neutrality*; and to accept of it upon their Terms.——Now, by getting the War continued, and making *England* enable the Queen of *Hungary* to support it with Vigour, we shall convince the haughty Monarch of *France*, and all the Princes of *Europe*, that, while we have such a Command over *England*, we are in no Case to be neglected or despised; and may not this be of some Advantage to us hereafter?

Count. I shall grant it may; but at present this seems to be rather a Point of Honour than Advantage.

Baron.

Baron. Why, I hope, my Lord, you do not think, that nothing is to be called an Advantage, but what we are to have the immediate Enjoyment of?—We can propose no such Advantage, indeed, as long as the War continues, except a more than ordinary Flux of *English* Money into our Electorate, which by the bye is not to be despised; but now that we have shewn ourselves to be of such Significancy in the Affairs of *Europe*, when Peace comes to be treated of, all the Parties concerned will think it worth while to consider us in their Negotiations, and to endeavour to secure our Friendship, which, they know, they cannot do, without giving us something. Your Lordship knows, there are several Things in *Westphalia* and *Lower Saxony*, which we have had our Eye upon, ever since our Connexion with *England* made Way for our Ambition; for before that Time, I shall grant, we thought only of subsisting.—— I shall mention only one, which is the Money due to us from the Dutchy of *Mecklenburg*.——The late *Emperor*, 'tis true, very
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much curtailed this Demand, and prevented our having an Opportunity to increase it far beyond what it ever was:—His Family has Cause to repent it; but as it now stands, if we should get the present *Emperor* to admit of our whole Demand, which we may probably accomplish by the Event of the War, the *Dutchy* will not be worth much to the Proprietor, whoever he may be; so that we may be able to purchase the Equity of Redemption for a Trifle; and you know where we can always find Money for such Purchases.

Count. What you have said, Sir, has, indeed, made me conceive more clearly the Advantages we may reap by the Continuance of the War, than I ever before had any Notion of; but as the Imaginations of old Men are more apt to suggest Fears than Hopes, you will forgive me if I mention some Fears I have not yet touched on; for as I am so faithful to my Prince, and so just to my Country, as to speak always what I think in Council, and as I have a very great Deference

rence for your Opinion, I should be sorry, if we differed this Night when we meet in Council; therefore I hope, you'll excuse my putting upon you the hard Task of satisfying all my Scruples.—To come to the Point, Sir : The Dangers I have hitherto insisted on are of a foreign Nature; but what I am now to mention, may, with Regard to *England*, be called domestick, and are, I think, of great Importance in this Question.—We have hitherto, 'tis true, had a submissive Administration, and a complying Parliament in *England*; and from Experience we may vouch for the Truth of the old Proverb, That the People of that Country, like Puppies, never open their Eyes till they are just sinking; but the Expence of this War will fall so heavy upon them, that they may open their Eyes before it is brought to such a Period as we aim at, and if they do, they will see, what a Property we have made of them, which may induce the Parliament to declare against our Measures.

Baron. The Parliament, my Lords! Surely you have never had a serious Conversation with our *English* Friend we have now amongst us, otherwise you would not in the least suspect, that the Parliament of *England* will ever open it's Eyes, as long as the Ministers have Posts and Preferments, or can raise Money among the People, to blind them. — There is now no such Thing as publick Spirit in that Country. — There is, 'tis true, generally an Opposition to the Measures of the Ministers; but that Opposition does not proceed, unless it be among a few *Jacobites* or *Republicans*, or Persons we represent as such, from any Principle of Love to their Country, but merely because they are not preferred to such Posts as their Vanity prompts them to expect, or because they have been some other Way disobliged by the Minister. — By Length of Time, and many such Disappointments or Disobligations, this Opposition may at last get the better of a Minister; but the King has always a sure Resource. — It is but calling in two or three of the Chiefs in the

Opposition; and if he puts the Administration into their Hands, they will be as ready to screen the former Ministers, as these were to screen their Predecessors.—This of Course renders the new Ministers more unpopular, if possible, than the old; and consequently, upon every Change we may expect an Increase, or at least a Continuance of our Influence upon the Government of that Country.—If after this your Lordship has any Doubt remaining upon this Head, I must refer you to our *English* Friend now here, who certainly knows the Temper of his Countrymen, and if I am not mistaken, will be more submissive to us than any one of his Predecessors.

Count. Well, Sir: Suppose we are sure of having the Parliament of *England* always on our Side, is there nothing to fear from the People, if they should become generally discontented? Especially as his Majesty has a *Pretender* to his Throne, who, we know, is supported by several foreign Powers, and will always be supported by those who have any Difference with us.

Baron.

Baron. So, my Lord, I find you are going to play the *Pretender* upon me; but though this Game has been, and always will be of great Service to us in *England*, you will find no Advantage in playing it upon me.—However, if you are serious, I will give you a serious Answer.

Count. I am really serious, Sir, and wish the Game, as you call it, may not at last become too serious.

Baron. Then, I will endeavour to shew you, that though the Court of *France* may continue to support the *Pretender*, so far as to furnish him with a daily Subsistence, though they may now and then threaten us with him, yet they will never assist him effectually in the Recovery of his Kingdoms, as he calls them, for this plain Reason; because it is against their Interest to do so.

Count. You surprize me, Sir, is it not the Interest of *France* to have the King of *England* for her Friend?

Baron. Yes, my Lord, but a King of *England* who has nothing to look to but the Interest

Interest of *England*, can never be a Friend to *France*; for the Interests of the two Nations are so irreconcilable, that if any King of *England*, unless upon some very extraordinary Occasion, espouses the Interest of *France*, he must sacrifice his own; and if the *Pretender* were once firmly settled upon the Throne of *England*, *France* can have no Assurance, that he will be governed either by a *French Mistress* or a *Popish Priest*.

Count. Surely, *France* has as little Reason to hope, that any King of our Family will be governed by such Tutors.

Baron. True, my Lord, but they will always have something else to look to beside the mere Interest of *England*.—They must attend to the Safety and Interest of the Electorate as well as *England*, and when these two Interests become incompatible, I hope, our Ministers will always have Art enough to prevail with them to prefer the former.—The Electorate will necessarily involve the King of *England*, while our Influence prevails in his Councils, in continual Broils with the *Emperor*, or some of the Princes of
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Germany, and often with some of the *North-ern Powers*; and the Consequence of this must be, that either the King of *England* must keep well with *France*, or if he should declare himself an Enemy, it will secure to *France* the Friendship, and probably the Assistance of the *Emperor*, or such other Prince as then happens to be at Variance with the King of *England* on Account of his Electorate.

Count. You have almost persuaded me, Sir, that *France* will never give any effectual Assistance to the *Pretender*; for she seldom mistakes or counteracts her own Interest; but as this may be the Cause of *England's* being more complaisant to *France* than is consistent with the Safety of *Europe*, this very Consideration may induce the *Dutch* to espouse his Cause, and to take some Opportunity to give him effectual Assistance; and if we extend our Dominions on the Side of *Westphalia*, especially when we have obtained a sovereign Influence over the Chapters of *Munster* and *Osnabrug*, which in a little
Time,

Time, I hope, we shall, their Jealousy will be a new Motive for their resolving to assist the *Pretender*, if they should be encouraged by a general Disaffection in *England*.

Baron. You do not consider, my Lord, how cunningly we have guarded against this Event, by the Alliance we lately contracted with the Prince of *Orange*.

Count. Explain yourself, pray, Sir ; for as I was not consulted in the Affair, I do not know the Motives that prevailed for our contracting that Alliance ; and have hitherto thought, that the Match was a little beneath the Dignity of the Crown of *England*.

Baron. But I was, my Lord, and earnestly recommended the Match ; my Reasons for which I shall now explain.—The People of *Holland*, you know, were then, and are still, divided into two Parties :—The Prince's Party, and the High Republican.—The Populace, and most of the lower Rank of People, are of the former ; the Rich, and most of the Grandees,

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of the latter.——The Prince's Party we secured by that Alliance; and though the other Party may not, upon that very Account, act cordially with us in any of our other Schemes of Politicks, yet against the *Pretender* we have them by a sure Handle, that of their private Interest, which with most Men operates more strongly than the Publick; for all the Leaders and chief Men of that Party have a considerable Part of their Property in the Funds of *England*; and therefore they will never contribute to a Revolution in that Kingdom, which would necessarily annihilate that Property.

Count. I protest, Sir, I never thought of this; and when I consider it, I am more reconciled to that Match than I ever was heretofore.——I heartily wish our Princess may have a Son; for while her Posterity continue Princes of *Orange*, and the Funds of *England* remain, we can never have any great Reason to apprehend, that the *Dutch* will give the *Pretender* any Assistance; because by his Accession all the publick Funds
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of *England* would be *ipso facto* abolished; and whatever Dependance the *Dutch* might have upon his Promises, they could not depend upon his having it in his Power to get a Parliament, consisting chiefly of landed Gentlemen, to revive them.—Therefore, Sir, I shall now grant, we have not much to fear upon this Head either from *France* or *Holland*; and none of the other Powers of *Europe* can give the *Pretender* any effectual Assistance.—But should we not take Care not to raise the Discontents in *England* too high, lest the People of themselves, and without any foreign Assistance, should bring about a Revolution in his Favour?

Baron. I have already shewn, my Lord, that we may always depend upon having a Parliament in *England* as fit for our Purposes as we can desire.—Such a Parliament will always provide the Crown with a sufficient Standing Army; and as long as we have the Parliament and the Army of our Side, we have nothing to fear from the People, who have neither Arms nor military Discipline a-

mong them ; for as to the noble and rich Families of that Kingdom, we may always depend upon their joining with us against the *Pretender*.

Count. Upon what Foundation do you place this Dependance, Sir ?

Baron. Upon a Foundation which, with Regard to an *Englishman*, is a most solid one, their private Interest ; for most of the noble Families have been created, or advanced in Dignity, since the Revolution ; and most of the rich Families are concerned in their Funds ; therefore, if it were the Interest of their Country to call in the *Pretender*, do you think they will mind the Interest of their Country, when their own Titles or Properties are at Stake ?——Let the Populace therefore grumble and mutter as much as they please :—Let them publish as many seditious Papers, Pamphlets and Ballads as they please :—What is that to us ?—The Parliament will give us Taxes, and the Army will raise them :—As long as we have their Money, if they do not act, they
I shall

shall for me have free Leave to talk and write whatever they have a Mind.

Count. But, Sir, do you sincerely think, we have nothing to fear from the Populace ?

Baron. Not in *England*, my Lord.

Count. Why not in *England* ?

Baron. Because a sudden Insurrection, without any previous Concert, we shall always be able to quell, by Means of the Army ; and the common or low Sort of People in *England* are incapable of forming and carrying into Execution a concerted Plot.

Count. Why less in *England* than in *Muscovy*, or any other Country ?

Baron. Because by their many penal Laws, and great Rewards to Informers, they have raised and propagated such a Spirit of Treachery among the Vulgar, that we are sure of their betraying and impeaching one another, before any Plot against the Government can be carried into Execution.

Count.

Count. According to you then, Sir, we have nothing to fear, but a sudden unpremeditated Infurrection ; and as against that Event, you place your chief Dependance upon the Army of *England*, it brings me to the other Advice you gave, which was, To insist upon our Troops being continued in the Pay of *England* for the ensuing Year.— This, you know, I likewise opposed this Morning, on Account of the many Quarrels that have happened during the Campaign between the *English* Soldiers and ours.

Baron. And as I then told you, my Lord, I am sorry there were not two or three Dozen of those insolent Fellows tucked up, for their having the Impudence to insult our People as they did.

Count. Be a little impartial, Sir ; our Soldiers sometimes insulted them, and were often first in the wrong.

Baron. What then, my Lord, ought not those saucy Scoundrels *, the *English*

* *N. B.* The reproachful Terms made use of by the Baron are as exactly translated as possible.

Soldiers,

Soldiers, to have bore it, when they considered whose Command they were under? — If they were at any Time highly injured, might not they have complained?

Count. To whom, Sir?

Baron. To the chief Commander of the Brigade, or Detachment.

Count. Who was always one of our own Countrymen, and was, I fear, but too justly suspected of being partial by the *English*.

Baron. Then they might have gone to the chief Commander of the Army.

Count. A common Soldier would have found it difficult to get Access.

Baron. Might not they, in that Case, have made their Complaints to some of their own General Officers?

Count. Who could give them no Redress.

Baron. But they might have represented it to one that could.

Count. Few of their General Officers would take upon them to do so.

Baron.

Baron. For what Reason?

Count. Nay, you know the Reason as well as I.—But, in short, Sir, I think it a most dangerous Experiment to bring those two Bodies of Troops together again into a Camp; for when there are such Discords and Animosities lurking in the Mind, the least Accident may blow them up into a Flame.

Baron. And the Consequence would be, that I should have the Satisfaction to see, perhaps, two or three hundred of those *English* Rascals laid dead in the Field, and two or three Score more of them afterwards shot for Mutiny.

Count. But would not this alienate from us the Affections, and, perhaps, the Obedience of the Army in *England*, upon which you yourself acknowledge our chief Security depends?

Baron. Nothing like it, my Lord. No *Englishman* troubles his Head about what his Neighbour suffers, if he but finds himself at Ease, and well provided for.

Count.

Count. From whence had you this Character of them?

Baron. From Experience and Authority.
 —Ask our *English* Friend now here, he will confirm what I say.—Go to *England*, and you will hear every Man in Place or Office talking of the Happiness, the Prosperity, and the Riches of his Country, though from the Fall of Rents, the empty Houses, the many Bankruptcies, and a Multitude of other Signs, it is apparent that the Nation in general is daily going to Decay.

Count. I am sorry to hear it, because the poorer they grow, the less we can draw from them.

Baron. Pshaw. There will always be enough for us.—As the Soil is rich, and the common People industrious, the very natural Produce will always furnish us a plentiful Harvest; and the poorer they are, they will be the less saucy, and the more easily governed.

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Count.

Count. If you mean by governed, oppressed, you will find yourself mistaken ; for a Man who has nothing to lose but his Life, is always most ready to engage in a desperate Undertaking : Whereas a Man who is possessed of a plentiful Estate, will bear with many Oppressions, rather than engage in any Undertaking by which he ventures both Life and Estate.

Baron. I shall grant what you say, my Lord, but the poorer the People are, the more happy the Soldiers will find themselves, which will attach them the more firmly to the Government ; and a small Army will be sufficient to keep an unarmed, undisciplined Mob, however desperate, in Obedience ; or to reduce them, if they should dare to rebel.—For my own Part, I am so fully convinced of this, that I wish, with all my Heart, there were an Insurrection in *England*.

Count. Your Reason, Sir.

Baron. I have many :—An unsuccessful Rebellion always increases the Power of the Govern-

Government, as the last evidently did : —
 We should make a good Harvest of the
 Forfeitures, perhaps a better than we made
 by the last ; and, which is my chief Reason,
 it might furnish us with an Opportunity
 to carry *sixteen* or *twenty thousand* of our
Hanoverian Troops to *England*.

Count. How come you to imagine so, Sir,
 when no such Thing was thought of in
 the last Rebellion, nor even when the
Spaniards designed to invade them, and
 actually landed some Troops in the Island?

Baron. Because, my Lord, we have now
 got a Precedent for taking *Hanover Troops*
 into the Pay and Service of *England*, and
 the *English*, you know, are much governed
 by Precedent.——Besides, the chief Ar-
 gument made use of last Winter, for taking
 our Troops into their Pay upon this Occasi-
 on, would be much stronger for doing the
 same in case of a Rebellion ; for the most
 prevailing Argument, I hear, was, because
 as our Troops are under the Command of
 their King, they can depend more upon

them than upon those of any other Prince, who might order his Troops to be drawn off the very Eve of a Battle, or in the Middle of a Siege; and would not this Argument be much stronger, in case of a Rebellion, when the very Being of what they themselves call their present happy Establishment, might depend upon the Event of a Siege or Battle?

Count. As to the Strength of the Argument, I must admit what you say; but their Jealousy, I am afraid, Sir, will always prevent their consenting to have any of our Troops brought amongst them.

Baron. Consenting, my Lord, we do not want the Consent of the People: ——— The Consent, or rather the Advice of the Parliament is all we want; and we know how to get that, let the Measure be never so disagreeable to the People. ——— Nay, if the Parliament should prove refractory, which, from Experience, we have no Cause to dread, you know, the King can do it by his own Authority; and do you think
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any *English* Minister, especially the present, would oppose it, in case the King should tell him, If you will not take my Troops you shall have no other, or, if you won't approve of calling my Troops over, I will get another Minister that will.——My Lord, Prime Minister of *England*, even though under our Direction, is a delicious Morfel ; and, I hope, we shall always take Care to make the Forfeiture of his Head the Price of his Admission, so that not only his Interest, but his Safety, will command his Obedience.

Count. From what you say, Sir, I must agree, that a Rebellion might very probably furnish us with an Opportunity to carry a large Body of our Troops over to *England*; but what would you do with them, after having defeated the Rebels and restored the Tranquillity of that Country?

Baron. Why, keep them there, and increase their Number as much as possible, in order to secure us against a Mutiny in the *English* Army.

Count.

Count. I am more apt to suspect, it would beget one.

Baron. You are full of Fears, my Lord, which proceed from your having a better Opinion of that People than I have or they deserve; for as Self-Interest is their governing Principle, and as a Spirit of Treachery prevails among the common Soldiers of their Army, as well as among the common People, if we had a good Body of our own Troops there, no such Mutiny could ever happen as would be dangerous.

Count. Would not a general Mutiny of the *English* Army, supported by the People, be dangerous, even though we had a very large Body of our own Troops there? For if the whole People of the Electorate, as well as our Troops, were carried over, we could not pretend to be capable of conquering and subduing the *British* Dominions.

Baron. The Success of the *Normans* makes what your Lordship says a little dubious; but from the Reasons I have given I must conclude, that no such Thing as a general Mutiny

Mutiny can ever happen; for Self-Interest will always secure to us the Fidelity of the Officers, and nothing like a general Mutiny of the common Soldiers can ever happen, without a previous Concert, which one or other of them, in Hopes of a Reward, would certainly discover, before it could be made ripe for Execution.

Count. The Reasons you have given are good, Sir, if your Character of that People be just.

Baron. My Lord, our *English* Friend, who is now here, and certainly knows them, will vouch for it.

Count. Whatever others may do, I cannot entirely rely upon his Judgment; for I suspect, it is too often founded upon some rash and vain Conceit, the mere Phantom of his own Imagination; or, perhaps, as most Men do, he forms his Character of Mankind, from what he knows to be his own:

Baron. But consider, my Lord, what a fine yearly Revenue we shall bring in, by
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having our Troops continued in *English* Pay : — We shall get at least four or five hundred thousand Pounds a year ; and if we can procure their being continued for one Year longer, we may prevail with the Parliament to continue them from Year to Year, as long as we can find a Pretence for their so doing, which will be forever. — This, I think, I may reasonably suppose, from their Ministers having always found a Pretence for keeping up such a numerous Army of their own, though no Nation in the World has less Occasion for keeping up a Standing Army. — Is it not then worth our while to run some Risk, for the sake of obtaining such an Advantage?

Count. I shall grant it is, Sir ; but yet I cannot say you have satisfied me so fully upon this Head as upon the other ; for, I am afraid of stretching the Cord too far. — However, as I find it will be agreeable to our Prince, and am ready to yield to your better Judgment, I shall not oppose it in
Council,

Council, especially as I foresee it will be to no Purpose; and as it is now drawing near the Time of Dinner, it is necessary for us to be gone, lest we should make the Company wait.

Baron. I thank your Lordship for the Compliment you pay to my Judgment; and am ready to attend you when you please.

The Coach being called, the two Gentlemen went off together; and the Lady flew to release me from my Imprisonment. — I acquainted her with what I had done, and the Perusal of this *Conference* became a Part of our Amusement: — As she has, I believe, a sincere Love for me, she had before this Accident become a *True Englishwoman*, and therefore could not but take a Share in my Indignation at finding my Country so abused and ill-treated by Foreigners. — Upon my coming over here, and observing how Matters stood, I resolved to publish this *Conference* for the Information and Bene-

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fit of my Countrymen; for from thence every Man must be convinced, that the abolishing of all *Party Distinctions*, and the establishing of a *True English Administration* upon a *Popular Footing*, is the only Method for disappointing all those Schemes which *Hanoverian Ministers* have formed, or may form, for gaining or preserving an *Influence* upon *our Councils*.——This is therefore what I shall always recommend to the utmost of my Power; for though no Man stands fairer for Advancement by a *foreign Interest* than I do, I disdain to think of *raising my Fortune* upon the *Ruins of my Country*.

But as I neither could nor would presume to publish this *Conference*, and much less an Account how I came by it, without the Lady's Approbation, I wrote to her upon the Subject, and particularly desired to know, if she had the least Suspicion, that either her Character or Happiness might suffer by the Publication; upon which I received the following Answer.

My

My dear Englishman,

AS I was, against my Inclination, compelled to marry a Man, who, from the great Disparity of Age, could never hope to gain my Affection, we are now separated by Consent: And as in entertaining your Conversation I had never any Design but a little innocent Amusement, in order to divert my melancholy Hours with what Women of another Turn of Mind, may perhaps think whimsical; your publishing what you propose can give me no Disquiet or Uneasiness, but may be of Service to me; because, as soon as I have settled my Affairs here, I am resolved to come over and spend the rest of my Days in England, where I shall be free from ever seeing the Man I hate, and shall, I hope, enjoy the Pleasure of sometimes conversing with the Man who of all others will ever be most dear to

Your unfortunate, but faithful,

Feb. 5, 1744.

DIANA.

Being

Being thus left at Liberty to communicate this CONFERENCE to the Publick, and also an Account how I came by it, I immediately resolv'd to take what I thought the most proper Method for having it sent to the Press, and hope my Countrymen will make a right Use of the Information I have thus given them. Adieu.

F I N I S.

POSTSCRIPT.

AS *France* has at last done us the Favour to declare herself an *open* Enemy to *Britain*, in which Shape she is much less formidable than while she acted as a *secret* one under the Vizard of *Spain*, I do not in the least Doubt, but that the *British* Spirit and Courage, (which has always upon Trial been found superior to that of the *French*) if directed solely by *British* Counsels, will bring the present War to a speedy as well as honourable Issue; therefore, I shall take this Opportunity for recommending to our *Soldiers* and *Sailors* to lay aside all *Party Distinctions*, and unite in a zealous Performance of their Duty, in their several Stations, against the old and faithless Enemies of their Country; and to the *Members of both our Houses of Parliament*, I must recommend the same Union and Zeal in providing the *necessary* Funds for a vigorous Prosecution of the War; but at the same Time I must take the Liberty to put them in Mind, that they have something else to do:—Both Honour and Duty demand, that they should *Inquire how we have been led into the War*; for if in one Period we spend *Millions* to raise the House of *Austria* up, in another to pull it down, and in a third to raise it up again, by such a ridiculous and expensive Round, this Nation must be undone.

For this Reason, I hope, our Parliament will now at last think it their Duty to *Inquire*, how

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we came to set up the Maxim in the Year 1725, *That the Power of the House of Austria was become too great, and ought therefore to be reduced*; which Maxim we invariably pursued from that Time till the Death of the late *Emperor*;—and particularly, that they will think it their Duty to *Inquire* into the Conduct of our Ministers about the Time of the late *Emperor's* Death, and the King of *Prussia's* entering *Silesia*; for the latter, at the Time he entered *Silesia*, offered such Terms of Accommodation with the Queen of *Hungary*, that it was Madness, I think, to refuse them; because, if they had been accepted, it is evident, that neither *Bavaria* nor *France* would have ventured to attack that Princess, nor would the *French* King ever have had the Honour of giving an *Emperor* to *Germany*; and if the Queen of *Hungary* and King of *Prussia* had by our Means been reconciled, upon the Terms he at first offered, (which our Ministers might, I am persuaded, have brought about, if they had, at that Time, had nothing in View but the Tranquillity of *Europe*, and the Interest of their *native* Country) we should not only have been free from the Danger and Expence we are now involved in, but should have secured such a potent and real Alliance upon the Continent, that *France* would not have dared to take upon her, to prescribe to us in the Prosecution of our just War against *Spain*, nor to assist that Nation either with her Squadrons or her Seamen.

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An *Inquiry* into these Things can no way prevent or interrupt either the Prosecution, or the providing for the Prosecution of the War, because, if our Ministers have acted wisely, they can easily answer for themselves; and if they have acted foolishly, *or treacherously with respect to their Country*, I am sure, it is not fit they should be the Men intrusted with the chief Conduct of such a dangerous War; therefore, I hope, our Parliament will now think it their Duty to *Inquire strictly* into these Things; for if we have been unwisely or treacherously led into the War, it is not very probable, that those who have in such a Manner led us into it, will conduct it with Wisdom, *or with Fidelity to their native Country*.

Vis consilii expers, mole ruit sua; and if this should be our unfortunate Case, I tremble for the Lives of our brave *Soldiers* and *Seamen*: I tremble for what I know to be much more dear to most of them, *The Honour and Reputation of their Country*; and I tremble at the Thoughts of what may be the Issue of the War.

This *Inquiry* is therefore now become absolutely necessary, and this *Inquiry* I recommend with the more Earnestness, because it will of course lead the Parliament into the contriving of proper Methods for securing their *future Independency*, and thereby the *Liberties of their Country*; for if these be not, *by some new Regulations*, provided for, our Success in the War will only rivet the Chains which Corruption, before it is ended, may put on; and this makes me conclude

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conclude with a *Stanza* of an excellent Ballad
published some Time since *.

For if *Freedom* and *Virtue* must smile
Never more, where the Silver *Thame* flows,
What, alas, will't avail this lost Isle,
That *Hungary* is free'd from her Foes?
Has her Safety restor'd my dead Laws?
Yet secur'd is my Birthright to me?
Though the *Gaul* from *Bobemia* withdraws,
From *Corruption* have I been set free?

* See *Britannia's Lamentation*, *London Magazine* for 1747,
P. 406.

F I N I S.
